1st March 1958]

Nationalization of Bus Routes.

* 27 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to nationalise any suburban bus routes around Madras City;

(*b*) if so, the routes proposed to be nationalised; and

(*c*) the number of buses that will be put on each of such routes?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) (i) Madras (Mint) to Tiruvothiyur (Route No. 56),

(ii) Madras (Mint) to Ennore (Route No. 56-A),

(iii) Madras (Mint) to Red Hills (Route No. 57),

(iv) Madras (Broadway) to Lattice Bridge (Route No. 19), and

(v) Madras (Broadway) to Villivakkam (Route No. 20).

(*c*)

	Route.	Minimum number of buses to be run.
1	Madras (Mint) to Thiruvothiyur ...	13
2	Madras (Mint) to Ennore ...	3
3	Madras (Mint) to Red Hills ...	4
4	Madras (Broadway) to Lattice Bridge	4
5	Madras (Parry's Broadway) to Villivakkam	10

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it the idea of the Hon. the Minister for Transport that there is no necessity for increasing the number of buses in the City and that as such he has to take up the services outside the City?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : One does not follow from the other. The reason for taking up these new routes is the unfair competition from private operators.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Will the Government consider the desirability of having private agencies running the service on the routes where the Government buses are also running so that as a result of competition between the Government and the private agencies we can get the best results?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the state of affairs which the hon. Member wants is now obtaining on these routes and our experience is that there is unfair competition from private operators. The Government cannot stoop to the methods which the private operators can do and, therefore, it is not possible to have any test of competitiveness where one person is able to resort to unfair methods and the other is not able to do.

[1st March 1958

Dr. V. K. JOHN : Cannot the Government control the unfair methods adopted by any private agency?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : It has been found to be not possible.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN : To whom is it unfair?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : It is unfair to the people of Madras who pay the tax.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : Frankly speaking, can it be said that the Government would manage the bus service better than private agencies like the T.V.S.?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : I would invite the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to make out a point during the Budget debate and I would show with facts and figures that the operation of the Madras State Transport is far more efficient, far more economical and far more profitable than that of any private operator.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : Is it economical from the point of view of the passengers?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : Well, the rates are comparable.

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is it not a fact that the Government made a definite commitment that they would not extend nationalization outside the City unless they were sure and satisfied that the requisite number of buses to cope with the traffic were plying in the City? Now, I want to know whether the Government are satisfied that the requisite number of buses are plying in the City.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : It is the view of the Government that the number of buses now running in the Madras City is adequate. Barring the pressure during peak hours, the number of buses which are now plying in the Madras City appear to be quite sufficient for normal traffic requirements. That is the state of affairs and I do not think there has been a great deal of criticism either by the public or in the Press in the last one year about the bus transport in the City.

Sri V. GURUNANDAN ROW : May I know whether the buses of private owners have been taken over or whether the Government themselves are going to put the buses on the routes which have been nationalized?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : That is a matter of administrative detail. Whatever is considered advantageous, the Government would do.

Sri A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : அரசியலார் இந்த பஸ் ரூட்டுகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்வதினால் பஸ்களின் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகமாகி வருகிறதா அல்லது குறைந்து வருகிறதா ?

1st March 1958]

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : ஒவ்வொரு பஸ் ரூட்டுக்கும் இருக்கவேண்டிய குறைந்தபட்ச பஸ்களின் எண்ணிக்கையும் அதிகபட்ச பஸ்களின் எண்ணிக்கையும் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. அந்த விதிகளின் பிரகாரம் உள்ள குறைந்தபட்ச எண்ணிக்கைக்குக் குறைவான பஸ்களை சர்க்கார் விடாது.

DR. V. K. JOHN : Will the Government definitely state that they will render better and cheaper service than any private agency?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is our endeavour to give better service.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : If the motive of the Government in extending this nationalized bus service is only to prevent unfair competition from the private owners, may I know whether the Government will extend that policy to the Kanyakumari district where they are facing a heavy competition from the private bus-owners?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That matter is actively under the consideration of the Government. It is only the inadequacy of finance that is preventing us from extending it further.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I just add that if the entire bus service in the Kanyakumari district is nationalized, it will add a few more lakhs of rupees to the State Exchequer and that the Government may jump at that idea?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am very happy I have a convert for nationalization.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the Hon. Minister, Sri Manickavelu, is not present in the House, question No. 28 will be taken up on the 3rd instant.

Annual income from Tuticorin Port.

* 29 *Q*.—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the annual income under various account heads from the Tuticorin Port during the last three years?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the paper [a] placed on the table of the House.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : ஏற்றுமதி வர்த்தகத்தில் நமக்கு அதிக வருமானத்தைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் தூத்துக்குடித் துறைமுகம் இருப்பதால், அதை முதல் தரத் துறைமுகமாக்குவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்திருக்கிறது ?

THE HON. SRI P. KAKKAN : அந்தத் துறைமுகத்தை மிக முக்கியமான துறைமுகமாக்குவதற்கு என்ன நடவடிக்கைகளையெல்லாம் எடுக்க வேண்டுமோ, அவைகளையெல்லாம் எடுப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் பிரயத்தனம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 13 infra.